

Dr. Burgis's
ANSWER

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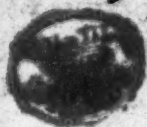
Dr. SACHEVEREL's

High flown Sermon

Preach'd before the

LORD-MAYOR, &c.

At St. Paul's Church, on the Fifth of
November, 1709.



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Dr. B U R G I S's
A N S W E R

To Dr. Sacheverell's High-flown
S E R M O N.

HAVING perus'd a violent piece of Railery and malicious Discourse, call'd a Sermon, tho' more fitt for a *Billingsgate* Auditory, than a Cathedral Harmony, could not forbear making some Remarks on the High-flown Bell-weather that deliver'd it, and the rather because it was so unseasonably made use of, even in the midst of that worthy Assembly, whom he very well knew (some few Malecontents excepted) not only abominated such Language to the worst of Enemies, but expected according to the occasion and Custom of the Day, much better Treatment, especially from him who was so generously invited that Honourable Task.

Had he made use of those wild Notions in a Jacobite Conventicle, or before his Royal Master the Pretender at *St. Germain's*, I believe very few, if any, on this side the Water, would have troubl'd their Heads about it; but to talk of a Churches Danger, before the Government of a great City, who were met together to give God Thanks for its Deliverance one of the greatest Villanies that ever was hatch'd in Hell, is such a Paradox that none but the Flag End of a Malicious Persecutor could have the Boldness to undertake, or Impudence to manage. But

nce 'tis the Nature of a Mad-man, to grow Desperate, when he sees his Hands are tying up; in order to be prevented from doing more Mischief, we the less Wonder to hear and see a contemptible Party, Raving and Belching out their Venom against others, for no other Reason that I know of, unless because they are more Honester and juster than themselves.

I know some that heard him, was so far from finding fault with any part of his Discourse, unless those few cold hints against the Papists, thrown in by the By, as it were for fashion-sake only; that they openly Care'd and Complimented him for his Pains; otherwise, a Recantation in Print had been much more becoming a High-Church-Champion, especially one that has taken so much Pains to prove the Doctrine of Passive Obedience and Non-Resistance, after he and his Party had made the widest Grp in it.

In his Dedication to the L——d M——r, he not only justifies whar he had done, but seems (as it were) to hug himself, and set a High Value on his Performances, even to such a degree of Presumption, that he calls his Betters Rhols by Craft, For, says he, *this Discourse* (meaning his Sermon) *ventures to appear in Publick in Contempt of the Adversaries in our Church that have traduc'd it with, and that Sentence it had the Honour to receive from some of its Wise Judges, who Condemn'd it without Sight or Hearing: But* (continu'd he) *'tis no new Thing with some Men to Censure at Random what lies out of their Sphere; or as much as to say what they don't understand; insinuating thereby, as if no Body had Capacity large enough, but those of his own Kidney, to be competent Judges of his laborious and learned Doctrine: Nay, and in some Sence true enough too, for he has advanc'd such unheard-of Secrets in his Wise Oration, that passes all Understandists, being so deeply grounded, that unless his Master the Devil, whom he says the Dissenters fall down and Worship, comes and unravels the Mystery.*

But above all, his Text was so wide from the Purpose of the Day, that 'tis very plain he intended nothing less than to revile his Brethren; who are so far from being False Ones, that they are hearty sorry for his Ingratitude and Malice. The Papists, forsooth, are dispatch'd in a hal Instant, and hurry'd off a Hand, as if unwillingly undertaken; but the Dissenters (God wot) they are smote High and Thigh, without any Mercy, Pity, Compassion, or Distinction; and why all this? Because they live Peaceably, Charitably, Moderately, and Religiously: Away with this Toleration and Moderation! says the Preacher, what should we do with a Mixture of Religion? Let's have All or Nothing. Out of the Church with these Hypocrites (says he) they are False Brethren, Wolves in Sheep's Cloathing, Devils in Masquerade, Dangerous to our Church and Enemies to our State.

And thus the hard-mouth'd Dr. like his Play Fellow in the Herd of Swine, run headlong down from the highest Precipice of Revenge, to the lowest Ocean of Destruction; not caring what becomes of himself if he can but involve another with him in the same disaster.

'Tis an easie Matter for an eloquent and cunning R——ve to lead an honest and well meaning Man into an Error, and afterwards to keep him there, by varnishing over his False Notions with something that may seem to outward appearance commendable enough; but if those Cobweb Arguments are search'd into, with the Eye of Reason, and broke through with a little discerning Grace, there's nothing but a Gulph of Filthiness, discover'd at the bottom of the Design, to bring their Brethren into Contempt and Derision.

I confess a Holy Zeal for a Good Cause is as Commendable as 'tis Just, but when a hasty Zeal hurries Men into Passion, Ill Nature and Revengeful Notions, such a Champion for a Church, tho' never so popular, ought to be rejected.

Let other People (says Joshua) live how they will, I and my People will serve the Lord. This Great and Good Man, tho' a General of an Army, was so far from Reviling or Per-

securing

Purposing to persecute others who dissented from him in some Circumstances, that he gave them Toleration in his Camp, in being particularly the Gibonites, who were of another Nation, and of a quite different Religion to the Israelites; and in a Hall we who are Fellow Subjects: Native Countrymen and Brethren, agree like Dogs and Cats, for no other Reason than not complying with a few Ceremonies, which are no Essential Part of our Religion.

But Page 9th he brands us with the Odious Names of Rebels and Traytors to both Church and State, because some Mercenary Writers forsooth, who perhaps would set us together by the Ears, have under the Notion of Dissenters, published in Print that the People are the only Original of Power, and that Kings and Queens are Accountable to them for all their Actions; When alas! 'Tis quite otherwise, with the Body of Dissenters, who have proved themselves the best Subjects both in the past and present Reigns; and yet the Doctor, contrary to his Conscience, and all Human Goodness, falls Rashly and Unadvisedly on the whole Body of Dissenters, only for the sake of some few Scriblers who pass (though very unworthily) under that Denomination.

If the Church which he so loudly Boasts of, be any ways in Danger, I am sure 'tis owing to its High-Flying Members, who are so Uncharitable as to grutch the Dissenters the least Favour under Her Majesty's Clemency, or partake in the common Liberty with others: Nay, by the Doctor's Good Will, the Papists should have the Preheminence, and a Jew or a Turk have the Right Hand of Fellowship.

If these be the true Sons of a Protestant Communion, the Lord Deliver me, and all Good Men from their Society! I much wonder how a Preacher of the Gospel, who pretends to teach others, should endeavour to infuse such giddy Principles into the Minds of Men; God is a God of Peace and Love, and shall we who call ourselves

elves his Ministers, be guilty of a Crime which our Saviour himself has Condemn'd? God forbid,

If the Dissenters were such Turn-Coats and Hypocrites, as this Religion Mender would make the World believe, 'tis a Wonder to me, that he who pretends to so much Courage and Zeal for his Sinking Cause, hath not brought over some of these Weather-Cocks into his Infallible Community: But instead of that, notwithstanding their pretended and Shuffling Principles, I do not hear of one single Profelyte that he or any of his Adherents, with all their Holy Inchantments, have made, but on the contrary, have lost many of their own Members, who finding the Difference between Truth and Falshood, have voluntarily Rejected and Deserted them, and chiefly for being so Rigid and Uncharitable to their Brethren and Countrymen.

I am heartily Sorry, That a Son of the Church of Christ, should so much degenerate from the true Maxims and Duties laid down by the Author and Founttain of Mercy, Christ Jesus, who has taught us to bear with one another's Infirmities; but this Learned D—ce, like Marlston Cur, that Attacks but dares not Bite, shews his Teeth at a Distance, and plainly tells us what we must expect, if ever Tyranny and Arbitrary Power gets into the Saddle again.

But Blessed be God, Crost Cows have short Horns and the ugly Beast is Muzzled that would devour us, The Serpent is Bound that would Sting us, and the Monster is Quell'd that would Enslave us.

And farther, this bold Invader of our Liberty would insinuate, as if Her Majesty's Clemency towards us, was the only way to ruine the Church, when all good Men and Christians know 'tis the only way to preserve it. For as Faction and Persecution can do the Church no good, so on the other Hand, Moderation, Virtue, and Piety can do it no harm; the Churches Danger is always the Cry, when Men of Malice want Ways and

grace and Contempt.

The Preacher, or rather Perplexer, towards the Conclusion of his Splenatick Discourse, resolving to make the Dissenters as odious as he can, strikes at his own Party, calls them Gowards and Bastards, because they wont to Bear-Garden Lostger-Heads with their Brethren, Club-Law with the Dissenters.

Let us hate (says he) the sneaking, shuffling Conscience of such as Consult their Safety and not their Innocence, and dare to be true in the worst of Times, and pray what can he mean by this but downright Persecution, or Rebelling against that Government under whom he lives and flourishes, wounding the Best of Queens thro' the Sides of a lazy Magistracy, as he calls them in his Huzzaing Dedication to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Loudon.

But his Malice it seems has no Bounds, that it reaches even beyond the Grave l for he Damns not only our Bodies, but Souls into the Bargain, rendering the Dissenters as the Worst of Men, not deserving the Name of Christians.

And what is all this for to raise up the Spirit of Persecution, that has been so long and so happily extinguish'd? No doubt but this Tool is made use of by some, as the Monkey did of the Cats Foot, to scratch a Nut out of the Fire, to preserve his own Paws from being Burnt,

There are certain Men as ready to do others a Mischief as any Body, but they love to Act behind the Curtain, while others perform the Drudgery in Publick, and stand the brunt of Danger. I could heartily wish all Parties were reconciled in the Bond of Peace and Righteousness of Life; but so long as Hatred and

and Malice, Ambition and Revenge, abound among
Mortals, there is little or no Hopes of Better
Times.

I confess 'tis very unjust to Condemn
Whole Body of Men, for the Failings
some Few of their Members, but if a Trial
may be known by its Fruit, and Actions and In-
tentions by Words, especially in a Place where
nothing but Sacred Truths ought to be Deliver'd and
Asserted, We may Rationally Conclude what such
People would be at, had they a Power to the
Will.

And if Michael, the Archangel, durst not
bring in a Railing Accusation against the very De-
vil himself, but said, The Lord Rebuke thee
'tis certain a Minister of God's Word ought to behave
himself with more Modesty towards his Fellow Cre-
tures.

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